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AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE
APPLICATION NO. 09/970,389

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



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In re Application of: Donald J. Merkley et al.
Application No.: 09/970,389
Filing Date: October 2, 2001
Group Art Unit: 1731
Examiner: Mark Halpern
For: Method and Apparatus for Reducing
Impurities in Cellulose Fibers for
Manufacture of Fiber Reinforced Cement
Composite Materials

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AMENDMENT PURSUANT TO
REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION
(Submission under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114(c))

Dear Sir:

Applicants submit this Amendment and Response under 37 C.F.R. § 1.114 and filed concurrently with Request for Continued Examination and respectfully requests entry and consideration of the remarks provided with this paper.

This Amendment is filed in reply to an Office Action made final and mailed June 19, 2006, that established a three-month shortened statutory time period to respond. Applicants submit that this response is timely filed.

In view of the following Remarks/Arguments, Applicants respectfully request entry of this Amendment believed necessary to bring prosecution to a speedy conclusion and to deal justly by Applicants and the public. Applicants believe the Amendment provided herewith defines their invention in claims that will give them patent protection to which they are justly entitled. This Amendment does not require an additional search on the part of the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and request allowance of claims pending in their Application.

In response to the Office Action, please reconsider the above-identified Application as provided in

Amendments to the Claims begin on page 3;

Remarks begin on page 7; and

Conclusion begins on page 10 of this paper.